

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to make an editorial change without changing its scope. Claim 5 has been amended to add a period to the end of the claim. Claim 8 has been amended based on the disclosure at page 27 in the specification. In view of the amendment of claim 8, claim 12 has been amended based on the disclosure at the bottom of page 27 in the specification.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection over Uhara

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 4-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uhara et al (WO02/16475), herein Uhara.

In response, Applicants submit that page 12, line 31 in Uhara discloses heating the gel film at 200 to 500°C to transform the polyamic acid to polyimide. Also, in Uhara's example, in the gel film for stretching, most of the solvent was evaporated. Further, in Uhara's gel film supplied for stretching, its swelling degree was lower than 200%.

In contrast, the gel film supplied for biaxial stretching in the present invention has a swelling degree of 200-10,000%, so Uhara's gel film supplied for stretching is different from the present gel film supplied for stretching. Further, the present invention's polyimide film is achieved by stretching the swollen gel film. By stretching gel film in a swollen state, a sufficient stretching property is achieved. Uhara is silent on this point.

Thus, Uhara does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious either the process for making a polyimide film as recited in independent claim 8 or the polyimide film itself as recited in claim 1, including the characterizing features recited at the end of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention is not anticipated by (or obvious over) Uhara, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection over Moriyama

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moriyama et al (JP publication 2001-081213), herein Moriyama.

In response, Applicants submit that Moriyama's film is not stretched, so the Moriyama film is different from the present film. The present invention's polyimide film is achieved by stretching. By stretching gel film, a sufficient property is achieved. Moriyama is silent on this point.

Thus, Moriyama does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious either the presently claimed process for making a polyimide film or the presently claimed polyimide film itself, including the characterizing features recited at the end of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention is not anticipated by (or obvious over) Moriyama, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-5, 9 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4, 5 and 18-19 of copending Application No. 10/543813.

In response, Applicants note that this is a provisional rejection, and thus Applicants defer responding at the present time.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

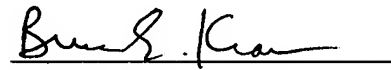
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